

December 1947

In reply refer to  
FC:HHG

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To: Brigadier General [REDACTED]  
Central Intelligence Agency.

50X1

From: Jack D. Neal,  
Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation.

Subject: Japanese Documents

The Department has received from the Netherlands Embassy at Washington a note dated November 14, 1947, which refers to a request made by the Netherlands Government Institute of War-Documentation concerning the possibility of examining certain Japanese documents now in storage under the supervision of the Washington Documents Center, and then states:

"On August 11th 1947 the Netherlands Government Institute of War-Documentation was informed under instruction from the Department of State by the American Consulate General at Amsterdam that it had not been possible to provide the funds or personnel which would be required to sort out and catalogue those documents for their historical interest or value; they largely remain in warehouses pending a decision as to their ultimate disposition.

"The Netherlands authorities fully understand the difficulties presented by the request of the Netherlands Government Institute of War-Documentation. They have, however, been informed that large quantities of documents of historical value, collected in the Netherlands East Indies, have been dispatched to the Washington Document Center, most of them via the former H. Q. SEATIC at Singapore. Lists of some of those documents compiled by the Netherlands authorities at Batavia, show that they contain important information on the history of the Netherlands East Indies, both before and during the second world war.

"The Netherlands Government would be grateful if in the near future the necessary searches could be made in order to determine whether this and perhaps other allied material has, in fact, been received at the Washington Document Center. It might be helpful if the searches could be undertaken or assisted by a member of the staff of the Netherlands Government Institute of War-Documentation which by your much appreciated decision of February 17th 1947 was already been given access to archives in Berlin, now in the custody of the Department of State - a permission which, it is understood, has been extended to cover the archives in custody of the United States military authorities in Germany.

"Mr. van Kleffens would like to point out that at this stage his request does not refer to the possibility of examining documents related to the history of the Netherlands East Indies during the

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second world war. He believes that a decision as to the examination or ultimate disposition of these documents cannot usefully be taken before it is known whether or not they are, in fact, present in the Washington Document Center.

"The scientific work of the Netherlands Government Institute of War Documentation with regard to Germany has been greatly assisted by the access it has been given to the archives in Berlin and elsewhere in Germany. The Netherlands Government would therefore be grateful if its request pertaining to the Washington Document Center would be given early and favourable consideration."

The Department would appreciate receiving the comments of the Central Intelligence Agency on the above matter in order that an appropriate reply may be made to the Netherlands Embassy.


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16 Dec. 47

The attached memorandum from Mr. Neal, Chief  
Division of Foreign Activity Correlation, subject:  
"Japanese Documents", was delivered directly to this  
Office by the Department of State. A copy is forwarded  
for your information and file, and the reply to the  
request will be coordinated with you before being  
forwarded to the Department of State.

  
Brigadier General, USA  
Assistant Director for Operations

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LAD/hbd